



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2007

## **FACT SHEET**

### **SANDERS CONTINUES TO URGE SAN DIEGANS TO CONSERVE WATER IN LIGHT OF POTENTIAL SUPPLY SHORTAGES**

Because of the very real potential for reductions in our region's water supply, Mayor Jerry Sanders today once again urged San Diegans to voluntarily conserve water. In lieu of mandatory conservation efforts that may very well be required later, the Mayor called upon San Diegans to do everything possible now to conserve water.

Potential water supply problems for the region are based on a complicated and evolving set of factors including: a prolonged drought along the Colorado River; a case in Federal court regarding our water supplies from the Bay Delta in Northern California; and weak rainfall amounts over the past several years.

Because of its very real potential impact on the local economy, Mayor Sanders is taking a thoughtful and deliberate approach to this issue and not rushing to impose mandatory conservation measures immediately. But the Mayor does want San Diegans to know that mandatory conservation efforts are a very real possibility depending on developments associated with the various factors. In the meantime, San Diegans must do everything they can to conserve water voluntarily.

The Mayor is urging households to conserve 20 gallons a day. By way of a letter being sent, he is also calling upon public agencies and institutions, such as school districts and universities, to cut their usage rate by 10%. The goal of these efforts is to keep as much water in storage as possible to help with the region's water needs in the next year.

The Mayor's letter calls upon public agencies to do their part, as follows:

- Reducing irrigation cycles on landscaped areas by 1-3 minutes or eliminating one entire irrigation cycle from weekly watering schedules.
- Refraining from watering landscapes during the day, when losses to evaporation are higher.
- Scaling back schedules for cleaning streets, vehicles and/or buildings and considering washing fleet vehicles at commercial car washes that recycle water.

- Conducting comprehensive checks for and repairing any leaks in water systems.
- Consideration of native California-friendly plants and artificial turf for new or rehabilitated landscapes rather than new grass or high-water-use plants in public landscape spaces.
- Turning off decorative fountains or scaling back their schedule for refills.
- Using reclaimed water for irrigation, decorative fountains or other uses where feasible.

Research shows that people want public agencies to lead by example during conservation campaigns. When people see public agencies and other high-profile institutions “doing their part” to conserve water, they are more likely to join the effort and help maximize much-needed water savings. Conversely, if they see public agencies “wasting” water, they say they are less likely to conserve.

Today, the Mayor once again called upon residents and businesses to do their part:

- Irrigation and garden watering should be pared back and done with either a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shut-off nozzle, a hand-held container, or a drip irrigation system.
- Everyone should be mindful of their water consumption everywhere around the house – combining three smaller loads of laundry into one and making sure the water isn’t running as dishes are being washed for instance.
- Washing vehicles should be limited to short rinses with hand-held hoses equipped with positive shut-off nozzles or washing done by commercial car washes or commercial service stations using high pressure washing equipment. Washing vehicles should continue where the health, safety and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleanings. Examples of these include garbage trucks and vehicles used to transport food and perishables.
- Residents should carefully monitor water levels to avoid overfilling swimming pools, spas, ponds and artificial lakes.
- Anyone in charge of irrigation of golf courses, parks, school grounds and recreation fields cut back water use wherever possible.
- Restaurants should ask patrons if they would like water rather than placing glasses at each table.
- Homeowners and business owners should use a broom – instead of water – to clean sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas.
- Ornamental fountains and water features should be outfitted with re-circulating pumps to maximize water use, and that
- Water used at construction sites should be limited to applications required by regulatory agencies.